

## **CITY OF EDWARDSVILLE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN 2021**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Sustainability Plan is a long-range plan for enhancing the quality of life for present and future generations of Edwardsville residents through sustainable practices. The Sustainability Plan offers policies, projects and goals for Transportation and Buildings; solutions for air and water pollution, and storm water management; suggestions for use of renewable energy sources, and tree planting and use of native planting for carbon offset and for educational and community development to assist community members to utilize sustainable practices, as well as partnerships with other public entities to put these recommendations into effect, or to obtain funding for same. The goal is the reduction of carbon emissions in the City, and the Sustainability Plan is designed to provide the City and Cool Cities Initiative Advisory Committee with a plan to meet this goal.

### **A. TRANSPORTATION**

1. Promote Transportation options such as bicycle trails, commute trip reduction programs, incentives for carpooling and public transit.
2. Work with Madison County Transit to promote public transit as a viable option for commuting to work, home, school and entertainment by helping promote the RideFinders, SchoolPool and other programs.
3. Work with district 7 and SIUE to increase student bicycling and participation in MCT's SchoolPool program.
4. Encourage Edwardsville to reduce city fleet vehicle emissions by substituting and adding hybrid and electric vehicles for high emissions vehicles in the city fleet, and promote 'no-idling' measures.
5. Adopt a bicycle and pedestrian master plan and appoint a bicycle-pedestrian committee.
6. Encourage the installation of superchargers for electric vehicles within the City.

### **B. BUILDINGS**

1. Continue to incorporate Resolution #852-8-2012 to practice and promote sustainable building practices using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program or a similar system.
2. Encourage the reduction of emissions related to electric and gas use in the City commercial, institutional and industrial buildings by encouraging retrofitting and energy audits of the City private and commercial buildings.
3. Encourage the reduction of emissions related to electric and gas use in residential buildings.
4. Try and promote 100% Renewable Energy Credit use for future electric supply negotiations.
5. Encourage energy audits and energy conservation retrofits in residential buildings.
6. Continue to encourage reduction of emissions related to electric and gas use in city owned and operated buildings, parks, parking lots, and along city streets.

7. Make energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements, retrofitting city facilities with energy efficient lighting and HVAC systems, and urging employees to conserve energy and save money (Energy Star Equipment and Appliances).
8. Support Edwardsville's City Comprehensive Land Use Plan to reduce sprawl, preserve open space, and create compact, walkable communities.

#### **C. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

1. Support permeable paving opportunities and incorporate rain gardens on city properties. Encourage best practices for storm water management including rain gardens, bioswales and permeable paving.
2. Decrease Edwardsville's minimum parking requirements.
3. Encourage storage and re-use of rain water where applicable.
4. Continue to support Edwardsville tree planting program, encourage expansion of tree replacement programs, support xeriscaping (use of indigenous plants in city and residential landscaping)
5. Encourage education of homeowners to take their own steps to reduce flooding and manage heat waves through tree planning, xeriscaping and storm water management, installation of rain barrels, and other best practices.

#### **D. RENEWABLE ENERGY**

1. Encourage the reduction of commercial and residential emissions through the use of renewable sources of energy and thermal storage systems.
2. Investigate and promote all renewable energy sources.
3. Encourage residents to consider and install solar thermal panels, geothermal home installations, and solar electric generation in their homes.
4. Encourage residents to use hybrid and electric-powered vehicles and use of waste vegetable oils or propane where practicable.
5. Investigate the feasibility of purchasing solar power for city facilities.
6. Explore waste to energy, thermal to energy conversions, or other technologies to lower use of non-renewable energy sources.

#### **E. POLLUTION**

1. Identify opportunities to increase recycling in the community, such as in public gatherings and commercial establishments.
2. Identify opportunities to encourage carpooling.
3. Develop/Deliver community education regarding recycling, carpooling, air quality, composting, buying local produce, more sustainable gardening practices and reducing personal and business carbon footprint.
4. Provide information on food donation and composting/waste re-use and container re-use.
5. Recommend the use of reusable grocery bags to all citizens.

#### **F. FOOD PRODUCTION**

1. Provide links on City website to education resources for composting, buying organic or locally raised food, and conscientious food choice decisions.
2. Promote and support local Farmer's Markets.
3. Promote and support environmentally sustainable and community based gardening.

#### **G. EDUCATION**

1. Continue fostering and supporting educational partnerships with public and private schools.
2. Promote and support a bike-to-school initiative.
3. Identify school-age "green" groups with intent to form a partnership.
4. Promote and support school sustainability/green programs.
5. Promote and support no-idling initiatives.
6. Endeavor to provide educational initiatives held at the Edwardsville Public Library.
7. Explore developing a 'green educational resource section' in the library, including books and other information as well as a 'green resources section' on library website.

#### **H. CARBON OFFSETS**

1. Encourage and support the Edwardsville Beautification and Tree Committee.
2. Encourage a City Urban Forestry and Native Grasses Program, encouraging decreased use of herbicides in road side management or by city contractors.
3. Continue to support the city in designation as Tree City.
4. Continue educational efforts regarding the benefits of urban trees and planting and maintenance advice.
5. Install pollinator gardens in the City's parks.

#### **I. POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

1. Regularly (every 5 years) review progress toward the goals of the Sustainability Plan, and set new or revised goals and/or revisit initiatives not yet achieved.
2. Integrate the initiatives and strategies outlined in the Edwardsville Sustainability Plan into future policies and comprehensive City plans as relevant.
3. As the City considers major policies and programs related to the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, engage policy makers in the early stages of development to identify ways to reduce emissions.
4. Develop and adopt procurement guidelines for City procured goods and services that contribute to a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
5. Review existing ordinances and policies to make sure that they are consistent with the Edwardsville Sustainability Plan initiatives and strategies.
6. Pursue local, state and federal grants, resources, and innovative funding sources to support, fund, and implement the initiatives and strategies in the Sustainability Plan.
7. Encourage and support partnerships with other public entities (e.g., other municipalities, Madison County, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, community groups and private businesses) to develop and leverage funds, resources to implement the initiatives and strategies in the Edwardsville Sustainability Plan.

8. Identify and publicly recognize community efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
9. Promote and support local, state, and national efforts to mitigate climate change.
10. Participate in local, state and national initiatives and programs that provide information, tools and resources to implement the Edwardsville Sustainability Plan.
11. Seek ways to recognize, engage and support the efforts of civic, educational, religious and neighborhood organizations that address climate change.
12. Share Edwardsville's successes and lessons learned with other municipalities through regional meetings and conferences or other reporting/coordinating means, such as through public presentations on reducing carbon emissions.
13. Annually (each January) assemble a list of accomplishments by the City/Cool Cities Initiative Advisory committee.
14. Annually (each January) set Citywide/Cool Cities Initiative Advisory committee goals for the upcoming year.

#### **J. PUBLIC RELATIONS**

1. Engage the public through information on climate change, its causes, and its impact on the environment.
2. Disseminate information on strategies that can be used toward climate change mitigation by individuals, businesses, and governmental bodies.
3. Engage the public with information about Energy Audits, Retrofitting and resource availability.
4. Use festivals and local markets to model and promote environmentally friendly practices such as recycling, waste reduction, and energy conservation.
5. Use the City website to promote actions individuals can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
6. Establish and maintain relationships with other Cities and Sustainability Committees.
7. Promote local green events and the City and Cool Cities sustainability efforts on social media.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The Sustainability Plan was drafted by the Cool Cities Initiative Advisory Committee with the review and support from the City Council and the Planning and Zoning Division within Public Works. The timeline for initiation of projects and policies will vary by difficulties of implementation, grant funding, resources available and urgency. The Sustainability Plan will be reviewed by the Cool Cities Initiative Advisory Committee on an annual basis to review projects and polices that are in progress, complete, not started, or require amendments to the Sustainability Plan.